

## Hatchery Operations

The CDFG currently operates 13 inland trout hatcheries and 8 salmon and steelhead hatcheries throughout the State, rearing 4 trout species, 3 salmon species, and two species of char. The trout species include rainbow, brown, cutthroat, and golden. The char species reared are the lake and brook trout. The salmon species include Chinook, coho and Kokanee.

### Salmon and Steelhead Hatcheries

The salmon and steelhead hatcheries within California are located primarily on rivers that have had their water supplies impounded and access to potential spawning habitat blocked, largely due to installation of dams. Fish releases from these hatcheries typically occur directly into the rivers where the hatcheries are located. Salmon and steelhead smolts may be transported downstream to release locations in efforts to increase their survival and ultimate return to the hatchery for spawning.

Spawning at these hatcheries is done annually when the adult fish return from the sea. Once eggs and milt are collected the eggs are cultivated and raised in a hatchery building until they can be moved to hatchery troughs and ultimately into raceways for grow-out and release from the hatchery.

### Trout Hatcheries

Trout hatcheries acquire eggs from “brood stock” fish located at various hatcheries throughout the state. These eggs are reared in a manner similar to the salmon and steelhead operations, except these fish are stocked in high mountain lakes, streams, creeks, urban lakes, and low-elevation reservoirs in California.

Eggs for inland salmon, which are reared in the hatcheries and released in the inland areas of California, are either collected at several egg collection stations located where the salmon have been released (Chinook), or are collected at locations throughout the state and on occasion from outside of California (coho and Kokanee).



*Irongate Hatchery*



*Feather River Hatchery*